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January 14, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I suppose an argument can successfully be advanced that throughout the years Microsoft has become a bit proud and defensive regarding its software products. These traits, while not laudable, are not reason enough to drag a company like Microsoft into federal court. Threatening a company like Microsoft with breaking it up does not fill any but the most ardent of Microsoft's critics with any measure of confidence.

Ultimately, it is far better that this suit has ended with a settlement. While I leave it to others to decipher the specifics of the settlement's terms on such things as software licensing and Microsoft's relationships with other IT companies, any settlement that is reasonably acceptable to both sides is far better than dragging this case through the courts.

For this reason, I am writing in support of the settlement. I am also expressing my desire to see this entire episode concluded so that we can all put this behind us. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Scott Sanford
President